



**PUBLIC BENEFITS**

**THROUGH SCHOOLS**

**CONVENING**

**APRIL 9-10, 2024**





# Youth Engagement in Public Benefits Access

PUBLIC BENEFITS THROUGH SCHOOLS CONVENING 2024

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Dinora worked with the Riverside County Office of Education - Migrant Education and One Future Coachella Valley for a summer internship program. Some goals of the program:

- Provide students with a college and career curriculum
- Operate a CalFresh Outreach Project through Student Engagement
- Increase Student Impact and Community Impact



California Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program

- 1 Text "Foodriv1" to 74544 to see if you qualify.
- 2 Apply online at [GetCalFresh.org](https://www.getcalfresh.org)
- 3 Contact local CalFresh office at 1-877-847-3663



Aiming to reduce hunger

Text "Foodriv1" to 74544 to see if you qualify.





## Why is Youth Engagement in Public Benefits Access Important?

- Youth are often cultural brokers for their family and help navigate public benefits and supports
- Involving youth in public benefits access educates them about the resources available to them and their families, increasing word of mouth and overall awareness of public benefits in the community
- Youth can help identify or address barriers to accessing public benefits - such as, communication, stigma, and other hurdles

# Youth Engagement Ladder: Low Tier

- 1. Manipulation:** Adults use young people to support their own projects and pretend they are the result of young people's inspiration
- 2. Decoration:** young people are used to help implement adults' initiatives
- 3. Tokenism:** participation for show - young people have little or no influence on their activities

# Youth Engagement Ladder: Mid Tier

**4. Youth Informed:** Young people are assigned tasks and informed how and why they are involved in the project

**5. Youth Consulted:** Adults make decisions, while young people are consulted and informed

# Youth Engagement Ladder: High Tier

6. **Youth and Adult Equality:** Adults' initiative, with joint decisions
7. **Youth Driven:** Young people's initiative and leadership
8. **Youth and Adult Equity:** Young people's initiative, decisions made in partnership with adults





 **NO KID  
HUNGRY**

# Building Blocks of Youth Engagement

1. **Ask Them:** How do they want to be involved? What is their capacity and interest?
2. **Appreciate youth and their perspective:** How are their perspectives different, and how can they improve your project?
3. **Be genuinely inclusive:** How can you avoid tokenism and make sure students are heard and engaged through each part of the process?
4. **Be responsive:** Respond quickly and use relevant platforms to communicate regularly



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## Now it's time to brainstorm!

- Stand up!
- Let's create a spectrum of youth engagement: Based on the tiers of engagement we discussed, move to the **left side** of the room if you have **low to mid experience** engaging with youth, move to the **right side** of the room if you have **mid to high experience** engaging with youth.

# Brainstorm Questions

1. What made you decide to attend this session? Why is youth engagement important to you and your work?
2. What are the public benefits available to youth in your community, and how can they access them?
3. What are some challenges and barriers to youth engagement?
4. What are some questions you would like to ask young people about public benefits access?
5. What are some ways that you can conduct outreach to young people?

**What made you decide to attend this session?  
Why is youth engagement important to you and  
your work?**

**What are the public benefits available to youth in your community, and how can they access them?**

# **What are some challenges and barriers to youth engagement?**



**What are some questions you would like to ask young people about public benefits access?**

# **What are some methods to conduct outreach to young people?**

**What is one step you can take to increase youth engagement in public benefits access?**

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